



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 166

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2020

No. 219

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. DINGELL).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 24, 2020.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DEBBIE DINGELL to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:
Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Lord, on this day, Christmas Eve, You know there are many Americans who look to the people's House as uncertainty about the future of the economy and their livelihoods hangs in the balance. While agreements have been reached, further uncertainty has been introduced, causing frustration for many.

We ask again that You bless the Members of the people's House during such a stressful time. Help them to remain men and women of hope as they attend to their public service.

Above all, may all who possess power here in the Nation's capital be mindful of those whom they represent who possess little or no power and whose lives are made all the more difficult by a failure to work out serious differences.

May all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4(a) of House Resolution

967, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WITTMAN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 21, 2020.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 21, 2020, at 11:08 p.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 2429.

That the Senate agrees to House of Representatives amendment to Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 1520.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 128.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3250.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5126.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5472.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 22, 2020.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 22, 2020, at 11:39 a.m.:

That the Senate agrees to the House of Representatives amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 133.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 127.

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 3153.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1418.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1492.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 2502.

Appointment: Independent Mexico Labor Expert Board.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following bills were signed by Speaker Pro Tempore Beyer on Monday, December 21, 2020:

H.R. 1240, to preserve United States fishing heritage through a national program dedicated to training and assisting the next generation of commercial fishermen;

H.R. 1520, making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021, and for other purposes;

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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H9149

H.R. 4031, to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, and for other purposes;

H.R. 5458, to modify the boundary of the Rocky Mountain National Park, and for other purposes;

H.R. 5852, to redesignate the Weir Farm National Historic Site in the State of Connecticut as the "Weir Farm National Historical Park";

H.R. 6535, to deem an urban Indian organization and employees thereof to be a part of the Public Health Service for the purposes of certain claims for personal injury, and for other purposes;

H.R. 7460, to extend the authority for the establishment by the Peace Corps Commemorative Foundation of a commemorative work to commemorate the mission of the Peace Corps and the ideals on which the Peace Corps was founded, and for other purposes.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 23, 2020.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on December 23, 2020 at 3:29 p.m., said to contain a message from the President returning, without his approval, H.R. 6395.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk of the House.

WILLIAM M. (MAC) THORNBERRY
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 116-174)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following veto message from the President of the United States:

To the House of Representatives:

I am returning, without my approval, H.R. 6395, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (the "Act"). My Administration recognizes the importance of the Act to our national security. Unfortunately, the Act fails to include critical national security measures, includes provisions that fail to respect our veterans and our military's history, and contradicts efforts by my Administration to put America first in our national security and foreign policy actions. It is a "gift" to China and Russia.

No one has worked harder, or approved more money for the military, than I have—over \$2 trillion. During

my 4 years, with the support of many others, we have almost entirely rebuilt the United States military, which was totally depleted when I took office. Your failure to terminate the very dangerous national security risk of Section 230 will make our intelligence virtually impossible to conduct without everyone knowing what we are doing at every step.

The Act fails even to make any meaningful changes to Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act, despite bipartisan calls for repealing that provision. Section 230 facilitates the spread of foreign disinformation online, which is a serious threat to our national security and election integrity. It must be repealed.

Additionally, the Act includes language that would require the renaming of certain military installations. Over the course of United States history, these locations have taken on significance to the American story and those who have helped write it that far transcends their namesakes. My Administration respects the legacy of the millions of American servicemen and women who have served with honor at these military bases, and who, from these locations, have fought, bled, and died for their country. From these facilities, we have won two World Wars. I have been clear in my opposition to politically motivated attempts like this to wash away history and to dishonor the immense progress our country has fought for in realizing our founding principles.

The Act also restricts the President's ability to preserve our Nation's security by arbitrarily limiting the amount of military construction funds that can be used to respond to a national emergency. In a time when adversaries have the means to directly attack the homeland, the President must be able to safeguard the American people without having to wait for congressional authorization. The Act also contains an amendment that would slow down the rollout of nationwide 5G, especially in rural areas.

Numerous provisions of the Act directly contradict my Administration's foreign policy, particularly my efforts to bring our troops home. I oppose endless wars, as does the American public. Over bipartisan objections, however, this Act purports to restrict the President's ability to withdraw troops from Afghanistan, Germany, and South Korea. Not only is this bad policy, but it is unconstitutional. Article II of the Constitution makes the President the Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States and vests in him the executive power. Therefore, the decision regarding how many troops to deploy and where, including in Afghanistan, Germany, and South Korea, rests with him. The Congress may not arrogate this authority to itself directly or indirectly as purported spending restrictions.

For all of these reasons, I cannot support this bill. My Administration has

taken strong actions to help keep our Nation safe and support our service members. I will not approve this bill, which would put the interests of the Washington, D.C. establishment over those of the American people. It is my duty to return H.R. 6395 to the House of Representatives without my approval.

DONALD J. TRUMP.

THE WHITE HOUSE, December 23, 2020.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The objections of the President will be spread at large upon the Journal, and the veto message and the bill will be printed as a House document.

Pursuant to section 4 of House Resolution 1271, further consideration of the veto message and the bill will be postponed until Monday, December 28, 2020.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 9047, CARING FOR AMERICANS WITH SUPPLEMENTAL HELP ACT OF 2020

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Speaker of the House of Representatives and myself, and consistent with the request of the President of the United States, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on the Budget be discharged from further consideration of the bill, H.R. 9047, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. HOYER. Can the Speaker inform us as to what that committee consists of?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Floor leadership in this context has been construed to apply only to the minority leader, and not to the entire hierarchy of minority leadership, where the Chair has been assured that the minority leader has no objection.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the Speaker for the clarification.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 9046, DEPARTMENT OF STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND RELATED PROGRAMS CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2021

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the minority leader of the House and on behalf of the wishes of the President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Appropriations be discharged from further consideration of the bill, H.R. 9046, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained to not entertain the request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker pro tempore, Mr. BEYER, on Monday, December 21, 2020:

H.R. 1240. An act to preserve United States fishing heritage through a national program dedicated to training and assisting the next generation of commercial fishermen.

H.R. 1520. An act making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4031. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5458. An act to modify the boundary of the Rocky Mountain National Park, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5852. An act to redesignate the Weir Farm National Historic Site in the State of Connecticut as the "Weir Farm National Historical Park".

H.R. 6535. An act to deem an urban Indian organization and employees thereof to be a part of the Public Health Service for the purposes of certain claims for personal injury, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7460. An act to extend the authority for the establishment by the Peace Corps Commemorative Foundation of a commemorative work to commemorate the mission of the Peace Corps and the ideals on which the Peace Corps was founded, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4(b) of House Resolution 967, the House stands adjourned until 2 p.m. on Monday, December 28, 2020.

Thereupon (at 9 o'clock and 12 minutes a.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, December 28, 2020, at 2 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-6005. A letter from the Attorney Adviser, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revision of Method for Calculating Monetary Threshold for Reporting Rail Equipment Accidents/Incidents [Docket No.: FRA-2014-0099, Notice No.: 2] (RIN: 2130-AC49) received December 14, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-6006. A letter from the Attorney Adviser, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Miscellaneous Amendments to Brake System Safety Stand-

ards and Codification of Waivers [Docket No.: FRA-2018-0093, Notice No.: 2] (RIN: 2130-AC67) received December 10, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-6007. A letter from the Attorney Adviser, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Qualification and Certification of Locomotive Engineers; Miscellaneous Revisions [Docket No.: FRA-2018-0053, Notice No.: 2] (RIN: 2130-AC40) received December 14, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-6008. A letter from the Attorney Adviser, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — State Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Action Plans [Docket No.: FRA-2018-0096, Notice No.: 2] (RIN: 2130-AC72) received December 14, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3742. A bill to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to make supplemental funds available for management of fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need as determined by State fish and wildlife agencies, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 116-685, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Ms. WATERS: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 5187. A bill to facilitate the development of affordable housing, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 116-686). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. PALLONE: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 5534. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for extended months of Medicare coverage of immunosuppressive drugs for kidney transplant patients, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 116-687, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. NEAL: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 2113. A bill to amend title XI and XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for drug manufacturer price transparency, to require certain manufacturers to report on product samples provided to certain health care providers, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 116-688, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3225. A bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to make certain adjustments in leasing on Federal lands for oil and gas drilling, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 116-689, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. NEAL: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 3414. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the distribution of additional residency positions to help combat the opioid crisis; with an amendment (Rept. 116-690, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. NEAL: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 3417. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for patient improvements and rural and quality improvements under the Medicare program; with an amendment (Rept. 116-691, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. PALLONE: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 7539. A bill to strengthen parity in mental health and substance use disorder benefits; with an amendment (Rept. 116-692, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. NADLER: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 2375. A bill to prohibit prescription drug companies from compensating other prescription drug companies to delay the entry of a generic drug, biosimilar biological product, or interchangeable biological product into the market (Rept. 116-693, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. NADLER: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 2374. A bill to enable the Federal Trade Commission to deter filing of sham citizen petitions to cover an attempt to interfere with approval of a competing generic drug or biosimilar, to foster competition and facilitate the efficient review of petitions filed in good faith to raise legitimate public health concerns, and for other purposes (Rept. 116-694). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. NADLER: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 5133. A bill to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to prohibit anti-competitive behaviors by drug product manufacturers, and for other purposes (Rept. 116-695). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. NEAL: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 3439. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and title XI of the Social Security Act to extend appropriations and transfers to the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Trust Fund and to extend certain health insurance fees for such transfers, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 116-696, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. PALLONE: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 5201. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage under the Medicare program of certain mental health telehealth services, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 116-697, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Energy and Commerce discharged from further consideration. H.R. 2113 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Energy and Commerce discharged from further consideration. H.R. 2375 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Agriculture discharged from further consideration. H.R. 3225 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Energy and Commerce discharged from further consideration. H.R. 3414 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Energy and Commerce discharged from further consideration. H.R. 3417 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Energy and Commerce discharged from further consideration. H.R. 2375 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Energy and Commerce discharged from further consideration. H.R. 3439 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on the Budget discharged from further consideration. H.R. 3742 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Ways and Means discharged from further consideration. H.R. 5201 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Ways and Means discharged from further consideration. H.R. 5534 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Ways and Means and Education and Labor discharged from further consideration. H.R. 7539 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. WITTMAN:

H.R. 9046. A bill to make further continuing appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. NEAL:

H.R. 9047. A bill to amend section 6428A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase recovery rebate amounts to \$2,000 for individuals; to the Committee on Ways and

Means, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. ESHOO:

H.R. 9048. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to modify the oath of office taken by individuals in the civil service or uniformed services, and of other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. HIGGINS of New York:

H.R. 9049. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a cancer center construction grant program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. TLAIB (for herself, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. PRESSLEY, and Ms. OMAR):

H.R. 9050. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for additional recovery rebates for individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GREEN of Tennessee (for himself and Ms. GABBARD):

H. Res. 1272. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress disapproves of the December 20 COVID-19 vaccine distribution availability timeline guidance of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. WITTMAN:

H.R. 9046.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law" In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Con-

stitution (the spending power) provides: "The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States" Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

By Mr. NEAL:

H.R. 9047.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Sections 7 & 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution and Amendment XVI of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. ESHOO:

H.R. 9048.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of article VI of the Constitution. In *McCulloch v. Maryland*, 17 U.S. 316 (1819), the Supreme Court stated, "Yet he would be charged with insanity who should contend that the legislature might not superadd to the oath directed by the Constitution such other oath of office as its wisdom might suggest."

By Mr. HIGGINS of New York:

H.R. 9049.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. TLAIB:

H.R. 9050.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 1 of the Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 2442: Ms. KELLY of Illinois and Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 2501: Mr. ALLRED and Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 3138: Mr. PANETTA.

H.R. 4160: Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. BILL-RAKIS, Mr. GAETZ, and Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.

H.R. 5141: Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 5902: Mr. GAETZ.

H.R. 6467: Ms. ADAMS.

H.R. 6496: Ms. OMAR.

H.R. 6754: Mr. RUIZ.

H.R. 7308: Ms. FINKENAUER and Mr. MFUME.

H.R. 8662: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 8933: Mr. PANETTA.



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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 166

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2020

No. 219

Senate

The Senate met at 10 and 29 seconds a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable ROY BLUNT, a Senator from the State of Missouri.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

The Parliamentarian read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, December 24, 2020.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ROY BLUNT, a Senator from the State of Missouri, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BLUNT thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,
DECEMBER 28, 2020, AT 10 A.M.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. on Monday, December 28, 2020.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 10:01 a.m., adjourned until Monday, December 28, 2020, at 10 a.m.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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S7951

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF THIS UNIQUE
HOLIDAY SEASON

HON. HALEY M. STEVENS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 24, 2020

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in acknowledgement of the harrowing trials faced by our nation in light of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. This Christmas holiday, I am holding the countless Americans who have experienced excruciating pain, uncertainty, and loss due to this crisis in my heart and in my thoughts.

I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to all the brave men and women who have advanced our efforts to overcome this pandemic, and to honor all of those who have tragically lost their battles with this terrible disease. May this new year bring with it a renewed hope, strength, and commitment from Congress to deliver for the American people.

SUPPORT FOR \$2,000 PAYMENTS
FOR AMERICAN PEOPLE

HON. KWANZA HALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 24, 2020

Mr. HALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address this make-or-break moment for the American people. For many months, House Democrats have been urging for a stimulus package that is commensurate to the problem that Americans face.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, 315,000 Americans have died, as a result of the Administration's mismanagement of the federal response to COVID-19. It has especially impacted the African-American community and other communities of color. Millions of jobs have been lost, countless small businesses have closed, and many others hospitalized. For the sake of controlling the virus we have all quarantined, as we eagerly await a vaccine. But this administration, aided by Congressional Republicans, have failed to deliver.

In the closing days of this 116th Congress and in the midst of a once-in-a-century pandemic, leaders from both parties were able to forge a compromise. It was not ideal—but it was something. I was proud to support this legislation. I was proud to support the agreement because it provided another round of \$600 in economic stimulus checks and another \$300 per-week in unemployment benefits, and it supports small businesses, which are the engines of our economy. It also provided funds to support local school districts and provides much-needed funds for coronavirus testing and vaccine distribution. I was also proud to help secure this legislation because it provides tens of billions in rent re-

lief and an extension of the eviction moratorium.

Which is why the posturing coming from the current occupant of the White House on Tuesday night is so disconcerting.

On Tuesday night, after many months of sitting on the sidelines, and being completely absent from the negotiations that forged this compromise, the White House cast severe doubt on the deal we reached.

Now, the White House is proposing \$2,000 payments. But make no mistake and as I said on Sunday night, mere moments after the deal was announced, the \$600 payments were not enough and must only be a down-payment. The \$1200 stimulus checks in the CARES Act from earlier this year was an important factor in controlling the economic fallout from the initial onset of the coronavirus, and I am disappointed that tonight that this Congress will not now act as we did in the Spring. The situation is more dire now and calls for more—not less—economic stimulus.

I fully support \$2000 payments for our people and for Georgia's Fifth Congressional District. I've thought deeply about this and heard from so many resilient Georgians. Our people are so resilient but many of them are on their last leg. We cannot fail them in this critical hour. To delay, or worse, to risk doing nothing would be a grave mistake.

We must ensure that this recent posturing from the White House does not jeopardize the deal we secured on Sunday and which we passed on Monday. I fully support the Unanimous Consent request from the Speaker today and I urge colleagues in the Congress—on both sides of the aisle and on both sides of the Capitol—to support the \$2000 payment but ensure that the support does not jeopardize that which we secured on Monday. Under no circumstance should the President exercise his veto power on the funding and prevent many desperate Georgians the relief they so desperately need.

Now is not the time to split hairs. Now is not the time to insist on legislative perfection if there even is a such thing.

We have so much to do to prepare the future but first I we must be able to get to the future.

PROTESTS IN INDIA

HON. ANDY LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 24, 2020

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise to condemn violence against Indians who are peacefully protesting laws they believe are unjust and stand with these peaceful protesters as they exercise a right that is fundamental in any functioning democracy.

Since last month, Indian farmers have protested new, hastily-passed agriculture laws that could weaken traditional markets where some agricultural goods are guaranteed a

minimum price. As a longtime union organizer, I support these farmers, whose hard work has earned Punjab's moniker as "India's bread basket." I have also been inspired by the solidarity demonstrated by diaspora communities from Cincinnati, to Melbourne, to Silicon Valley, to Canton Township, Michigan, just outside my district. One Michigander with family in India, Amrinder Grewal, told the Detroit News that these new laws were "ruining their lives."

I have also been heartened watching democracy in action in India and the popular support this movement is garnering throughout the nation and the global Indian diaspora. While I believe the Indian government should have consulted meaningfully with farmers before passing these laws, I welcome their efforts to engage with the protestors to ensure that legislation that affects these communities reflects their input and interests as well. At the same time, I'm concerned by reports that the Indian government has responded to the protestors with a heavy hand.

The BBC reported this month that protestors arrived in Delhi to find that "tens of thousands of police and paramilitary troops were deployed to halt their march" and "in several places, police fired tear gas shells and used water cannons to try to beat them back." As winter sets in, the situation has grown more dire: almost 30 protestors have died, some succumbing to the freezing cold.

On behalf of my constituents who represent the vibrant Indian diaspora community and have rallied in support of these farmers, I call on the Indian government to respect the vital right to peaceful protest and to engage in good-faith talks to ensure farmers' livelihoods are preserved.

SUPPORTING OUR COMMITMENTS
TO OUR FREELY ASSOCIATED
STATES ALLIES

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 24, 2020

Mr. CASE. Madam Speaker, last year, I was proud to help create the first-ever Congressional Pacific Islands Caucus, which I co-chair along with four of my colleagues.

When we launched the Caucus, I noted that our country's and world's future lie in the Indo-Pacific, and that the island nations of the Pacific are a key yet too-often overlooked part of that region and future.

We have critical strategic interests and long-standing partnerships throughout the Pacific islands. Yet now our allies and friends and all other Pacific jurisdictions are increasingly under severe economic and environmental stress, and China is aggressively seeking to grow its influence. We cannot ignore these critical developments, and our new Caucus is dedicated to assuring that does not happen.

Among these nations are three with which we have an especially close relationship under

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

a unique status: the freely-associated Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of Palau. These are island countries with which we share a long history dating back to the Second World War and before and an enduring relationship built on decades of shared interests and like values. These countries, also collectively known as the Freely Associated States, span an expanse of the Pacific ranging from just southwest of my State of Hawaii to our territories of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands in the western Pacific, an area the size of the forty-eight contiguous States.

Under our Compacts of Free Association, our country can construct military bases on their soil and make decisions that affect our mutual security. In return, we provide financial assistance, access to some federal programs and enable free movement of their citizens to live and work in the United States.

The role these islands play in our national defense cannot be understated. For example, Palau asked our country to increase its military presence in its islands, and the Marshall Islands are home to what the Army calls "the premier missile test range in the world." In November, a Navy destroyer near Hawaii intercepted a mock ICBM launched from U.S. Army Garrison Kwajalein Atoll in an exercise viewed as an important accomplishment and critical milestone by our military. Vulnerable as this small island community is to COVID-19, it opened its closed borders to our citizens who needed to work at Kwajalein.

Given the importance of the Compacts, we must always demonstrate to the Freely Associated States and the world that the U.S. can be trusted to uphold its commitments. For example, I am very pleased that the final Fiscal Year 2021 omnibus funding bill includes \$5 million of a \$20 million debt the U.S. owes to the Marshall Islands in response to unilateral changes made to the investment tax and trade incentives in the initial version of the Compact of Free Association.

On the other hand, I was extremely disappointed that the outgoing Administration recommended providing \$2 million less for Fiscal Year 2021 than was agreed to in compensation for amending various education programs back in 2003. This underfunding erodes the trust that our allies and partners have for our commitment to the Compacts.

We must fulfill and take these obligations seriously, especially as we work to renew the economic provisions of these Compacts. I look forward to working closely with my colleagues in the coming Congress to remedy this error and address other issues that may arise relating to the Compacts.

Our alliances and partnerships worldwide, powered by shared interests and values, are America's greatest strengths, especially in this era of great power competition. Trust in our country's ability and willingness to honor our commitments must be the unshakeable foundation of these crucial relationships. We can and must do better to protect that trust.

PROTECTING SENIOR CITIZENS

HON. KWANZA HALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 24, 2020

Mr. HALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address a most pernicious side effect of the pandemic.

Indeed, Madam Speaker, one of the most troubling parts of this pandemic is that our seniors are the most vulnerable.

They are uniquely susceptible to the harmful parts of this pandemic.

Often times, our senior citizens, who have worked many decades making our country great, are on fixed incomes, sometimes many miles from other loved ones.

It is sad and regrettable that this pandemic has created so much pain and death and uncertainty to this community.

But sadly, as happens from time to time in moments of suffering, there is also an insidious group of people who seek to profit off of this pain.

Madam Speaker, if we are serious about protecting our senior citizens during this pandemic, then our help must not stop at COVID tests, vaccinations or hospital care.

We must also ensure that individuals purporting to be fiduciaries and financial advisors do not take advantage of our seniors.

But unfortunately, this is not just limited to financial advisors. There are many probate attorneys preying on the elderly and the sick and those shut-in and in poor communities in Georgia's Fifth Congressional District and all over the country. We must work with organizations and Bar Associations to prevent this abuse.

Our seniors deserve to live their golden years in peace of mind. Our body recognizes that, which is why we have never wavered to pass legislation designed to ensure this reality.

We have passed social security and passed age discrimination laws. We must do more to ensure that they are protected from some of the darker elements of society.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS J. "TONY" FITZGERALD, III FOR HIS LIFETIME OF SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 24, 2020

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today on my own behalf and on behalf of Representatives ZOE LOFGREN, JACKIE SPEIER, JIMMY PANETTA, ERIC SWALWELL, RO KHANNA, JERRY MCNERNEY and JARED HUFFMAN to honor the extraordinary leadership of Thomas "Tony" Fitzgerald, III, as he retires from his position as the Director of the Veteran Affairs Palo Alto Health Care System (PAVAHCS), an office that he assumed on June 25, 2017. He ably filled the enormous shoes left by former Director Lisa Freeman, and oversaw the delivery of health care to more than 93,000 veterans at the VA's Palo Alto facility. The PAVAHCS serves eleven Congressional Districts and ten counties, and has three inpatient facilities in Palo Alto, Menlo Park and Livermore, and outpatient facilities in seven other cities.

Mr. Fitzgerald earned his Bachelor's degree from American InterContinental University, and is a graduate of the Leadership VA program, and a member of the American Hospital Association and the American College of Healthcare Executives.

Mr. Fitzgerald served his country throughout his long and productive career. He was a medical non-commissioned officer in the U.S. Army for 16 years, and began his career with the VA in 1988 as a psychiatric nursing assistant in Chicago. Throughout his career he has been an ardent advocate for Veterans, their families and staff. He earned increasingly responsible positions with the VA and he moved to California and began his service with VA Northern California in 2000.

Tony Fitzgerald's accomplishments while at PAVAHCS make a very long list. Among some of the highlights are increased Veteran trust scores; high patient satisfaction scores; approval for an additional Fisher House; robust union partnerships; the hiring of 1,080 new employees in fiscal year 2020; and oversight of the largest construction portfolio in VHA's history (\$2.6B).

Mr. Fitzgerald has earned many honors including the Top Environmental Excellence Award and the Secretary of VA Alternative Dispute Resolution Award.

Madam Speaker, we ask the entire House of Representatives to join us in thanking Tony Fitzgerald for his extraordinary service to our country, and in wishing him every blessing in his well-earned retirement.

AFRICAN DIASPORA

HON. KWANZA HALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 24, 2020

Mr. HALL. I rise today to address the issue of the African Diaspora.

The African Union defines the African Diaspora very broadly as people of African Descent living outside Africa. The UN estimates that there are about 200 million people of African descent outside Africa in various constituencies.

In Atlanta, we are blessed to have so many members of the Diaspora in our community and that community is anchored by incredible institutions like the African Diaspora Art Museum of Atlanta.

And I am heartened to see that our youth are also engaged in this conversation, such as the Young African Diaspora Initiative.

The last dozen years have been a source of whiplash. From 2009 to 2017, we had a president whose father was from Kenya, and who used the opportunity of his administration to strengthen ties between Africa and our Nation.

For the last four years, however, we have had a president who pays no heed to the richness and vitality of the African Diaspora. This was encapsulated by his vulgar epithet about some of the countries on the African continent.

But, in November, Americans decided to turn the page far away from this hate.

The election of President-Elect Joe Biden and Vice President-Elect Kamala Harris provides an opportunity.

We need to use the occasion of the Biden Administration to strengthen the ties with Africa while emphasizing the importance of the Global Diaspora.

There are so many opportunities where we can work together, most notably with our support public projects, such as schools and health facilities.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the need to form strategic alliances are self-evident—we all have a need to work together to end this scourge.

We must encourage the Diaspora to leave commanding footprints on capital, creativity and know-how.

But there are additional opportunities, such as eradicating malaria, ensuring clean water is available in all pockets of the continent, and to ensure programs like PEPFAR, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, are funded and supported. PEPFAR has saved the lives of millions of people.

But we can do more and we must do more. We must strengthen the ties of diplomacy and of commerce, particularly through direct private investment and improved utilization of transit corridors.

There are advantages of encouraging African governments to implement fiscal incentives and policies that foster common commercial development and works to eradicate economic deprivation.

After all, it was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., one of the most prolific servants of non-discrimination and of racial reconciliation in our nation, who advanced just causes through nonviolent protest. We must turn to this example once more to achieve further greatness for members of African Diaspora as our nation begins this new presidential administration.

We cannot let this opportunity go to waste by disregarding Africa's potential. We must seize the moment.

RETIREMENT REMARKS

HON. TED S. YOHO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 24, 2020

Mr. YOHO. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this moment to say thank you, farewell and goodbye while issuing a warning to this esteemed body. I have had the honor and privilege to serve as a member of Congress for the last 8 years. It truly has been an amazing experience for me, my wife Carolyn and our three children. It is the American Dream come true. We will always be grateful and thankful for the many memories and experiences we've had.

This would not have been possible without the support we received from our families, friends, supporters, Team mates and constituents for allowing us this opportunity.

After all, opportunity is what gives rise to the American Dream. My wife and I, along with all in this body, are the beneficiaries of that opportunity and recipients of the American Dream. Our Constitution guarantees equal opportunity for all not equal outcomes.

I ran for Congress because I felt America was off course and moving away from the principles it was founded on. We are a Republic, a Constitutional Republic. America is certainly not a perfect country. We've had, and still have, our shortcomings but we improve with each generation. The Constitution provides a framework for that.

However, some people want to fundamentally change our system from a Republic to a

socialist state and to end the legacy we have been blessed with. There are those in government, and the citizens who support them, who don't understand the basic foundational principles of this nation. There are leaders in the Democratic Party, who a few short years ago, would not acknowledge they were promoting socialism. Yet their ideals and actions were telling a different story.

Now today, we have leaders in the incoming administration who proudly espouse that this will be the most progressive, socialist administration ever formed in the United States.

Their desire to change a country that has created the most successful lifestyle in the world for generations is a travesty. It's a travesty to those that paid the price in blood to preserve our Republic and its ideals.

As the Chairman of the Asia-Pacific subcommittee on Foreign Affairs I've had the honor of traveling all over the world, meeting world leaders from many countries. I had a very impactful conversation with an Ambassador from an ASEAN nation that had a lasting impression upon me of what America means from an outside perspective. I would like to share this with you and issue this warning.

He said when his country fought to get independence their founders could have chosen any form of government to set up in their new independent country. They looked at the British, French, and German system of government but chose the American form of government for their new country even though none of them had been to America. They did this because they were very well studied in our founding principles enshrined in the U.S. Constitution. Specifically, the notion that government derives its power from the consent of the governed and without that consent no legitimate government can be formed.

The affect on me was this. You see America is larger than any president regardless of who sits in the White House and is much bigger and more significant than a political party, whether it be Democrats or Republicans. It is our founding principles, core values and the U.S. Constitution which holds it all together. These are what has set the gold standard in self governance that other nations want to emulate. That is why people from around the world risk everything to reach our shores and become Americans.

Our founding principles say our rights come from a creator, not government, and government is there to protect our God-given rights. Our core values state that all men, women and every child are created equal and have equal opportunity. The Constitution is the glue that binds all this together. It's these three things, founding principles, core values and the Constitution that makes up the American Ideal. And that ideology, "is the shining city on a hill", as President Reagan proudly spoke of in his farewell address. It is our duty to preserve and make better, not destroy what previous generations have built.

I caution those who want to change America into a socialist country to rethink what they are really asking. Do you really want to change the principles of America with all of the successes the people of this nation have experienced? What will be your excuse when you explain to the next generation, your children perhaps, why you allowed the opportunity to be taken away from them. Opportunities afforded to you and millions of others, only to allow it to die on the vine.

I hear promises of free education, free health insurance or Medicare for all. Some say everyone should have a living wage whether you work or not. This utopia they espouse is a fallacy. The utopia they promise is actually Hugo Chavez and Nicholas Maduro's Venezuela we see today. To achieve in America all one must do is embrace the opportunity, work hard, and play by the rules. As Frederick Douglass said in his self made man speech, "Success is the result of opportunity plus one's desire, self reliance and work".

So I challenge my colleagues with this. Will you fight to preserve and improve our Constitutional Republic or will you allow it to become a socialist country? What country will you pass on to your children and future generations?

Please, choose wisely.

IN RECOGNITION OF VIRGINIA PENINSULA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 24, 2020

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 100th Anniversary of the Virginia Peninsula Association of REALTORS. This year marks the centennial of the VPAR and commemorates 100 years of hard work and dedicated service to the Commonwealth of Virginia and the surrounding region.

The Virginia Peninsula Association of REALTORS is known for their vision of being the voice for real estate on the Virginia Peninsula. In December 1920, the VPAR was founded and organized as the Newport News Real Estate and Insurance Exchange. Throughout the long history of mergers and transition, 1990 marks the year the organization took on the name Virginia Peninsula Association of REALTORS. VPAR has grown from only 19 members in 1920, to more than 1,200 members today, marking 100 years of prosperity and growth.

From the beginning, VPAR has been a voice for real estate on the Virginia Peninsula. VPAR supports the areas of Hampton, Newport News, Poquoson, Isle of Wright County, and York County, and provides public policy and advocacy, education and training, and industry resources to real estate professionals throughout the Virginia Peninsula. The missions and goals of VPAR are strong and steadfast. The organization stays true to their important mission of supporting fair housing and strives to make home ownership achievable for all.

Virginia Peninsula Association of REALTORS use community outreach and engagement as a key tool to support the region, and they devote hundreds of volunteer hours each year to contribute to the overall success and prosperity of their community. This engagement and care for the community has greatly improved and strengthened the region's economy and standard of living. This care and engagement speaks directly to the kind of organization that the VPAR is, and is why the VPAR has been, and will continue to be successful.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I ask that you rise with me to commemorate the centennial

of the Virginia Peninsula Association of REALTORS. I want to thank the VPAR for their 100 years of dedicated service to the community, and I wish them God's blessings as they continue their excellent work for the entire region and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

SERVING THE 24TH DISTRICT OF
TEXAS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 24, 2020

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address this chamber for the final time. It has been the highest honor of my life to represent Texas's 24th district in Congress over the past sixteen years. This district is a snapshot of what makes our country great. It has people from all walks of life and all different backgrounds, working hard for their families and building a vibrant local community.

I have worked to bring that Texan work ethic to Washington and accomplished a great deal. We made our tax code simpler and fairer for middle class families. I worked across the aisle to improve access to quality health care and encouraged the building of affordable housing so that more people can call communities like ours "home."

There are so many people I would like to thank for their support. My wife Donna, my children Matthew, Luke, Kenny Junior, and Dallas, and my eight grandkids whom I am excited to spend more time with. My great staff, who have worked tirelessly on behalf of our district. And of course, the people of Texas's 24th District who entrusted me with this role. I end my time in Congress with pride and the knowledge that America's best days still lay ahead. God bless you all and God bless our great country.

UNITED STATES-MEXICO
ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 21, 2020

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, after months of stalemate and several long nights of tough negotiations, I am very pleased that we were finally able to find a compromise on a \$900 billion pandemic relief package. America has been confronted with unprecedented challenges this year due to the pandemic, but with vaccine distribution in motion, a new incoming administration, and a long overdue relief package on the way, I believe we can go into the new year with hope for a better future.

As Chairwoman of the Financial Services Committee, I played a key role in negotiations that resulted in the inclusion of \$25 billion in emergency rental assistance, an extension of the eviction moratorium, a \$9 billion Emergency Capital Investment Program to provide low-cost, long term capital investments to Minority Depository Institutions (MDIs) and Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) that are depository institutions, and \$3

billion to the CDFI Fund for financial and technical assistance grants to CDFIs.

I also strongly advocated for the inclusion of another round of stimulus payments, which can total up to \$600 per person, \$1,200 per couple, and \$600 per child, to support households struggling during the pandemic, and a restart of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) to ensure our small businesses are able to remain open. In total, small businesses will receive \$284 billion through the PPP, with an additional \$20 billion reserved for businesses operating in low-income communities and \$15 billion for live music venues, movie theaters, and museums. These businesses are the lifeblood of our communities, and this support is long overdue.

In addition to the new round of stimulus payments, I have fought to extend help to the unemployed. This pandemic relief package provides an extra \$300 per week in federal dollars to all those who qualify for unemployment insurance, including gig workers and individuals who have exhausted their state benefits.

I recognize that more relief is needed and more work must be done to provide additional relief, but this bill represents a necessary step in the right direction.

EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE

This bill will prevent evictions for millions of people who are behind on their rent and provide much needed relief for "mom & pop" landlords by creating a new \$25 billion emergency rental assistance fund that will be implemented by the Department of the Treasury. The bill also provides a temporary extension of an eviction moratorium through the end of January 2021. These are critical measures that will stave off a massive wave of evictions that we were otherwise expecting to sweep across our country after the end of this month when the CDC eviction moratorium is currently set to expire, and help landlords maintain safe and healthy housing for residents. Not only are evictions devastating for households in terms of the immediate and long-term consequences that disproportionately harm young children, but evictions also have significant negative consequences for the economy writ large. That is why helping our neighbors avoid evictions is not just the right thing to do, but it is also in our national economic interest. Preventing evictions is also critical to furthering the public health goals of ensuring that people can remain at home and reduce the spread of the virus.

Securing emergency rental assistance has been my top priority since the coronavirus pandemic began early in 2020. Together with Representative HECK, I introduced the Emergency Rental Assistance and Rental Market Stabilization Act of 2020 (H.R. 6820) that would have provided \$100 billion to help families and individuals pay their rent and utility bills and remain stably housed, while also helping rental property owners of all sizes continue to cover their costs, including the costs necessary to ensure residents' health and safety. H.R. 6820 was included in the Heroes Act both times that bill was passed by the House. When it became apparent that Senate Majority Leader McCONNELL would not take up the Heroes Act, even though the eviction crisis was growing increasingly urgent, I introduced H.R. 7301, the Emergency Housing Protections and Relief Act of 2020, which included H.R. 6820. This bill passed the House in June.

The Financial Services Committee also convened several hearings examining the effects of the coronavirus pandemic, including its effects on the U.S. rental market.

The emergency rental assistance fund in H.R. 133 provides non-taxable assistance for renter households. To the extent any clarification of the non-taxable nature of this is necessary, I expect the Department of the Treasury, in consultation with the IRS, to provide guidance to ensure that recipients do not incur any additional tax liability. The program also covers housing stability services, which should be interpreted to include case management, landlord mitigation, legal services, rehoming services, services to connect eligible households to other public supports, and referrals to other services for behavioral, emotional, and mental health.

It is critical that Treasury's implementation of this emergency rental assistance fund is swift and does not create any artificial barriers to assistance. In particular, we have seen with other benefits provided by the CARES Act, that documentation requirements to prove a nexus to the pandemic have erected artificial barriers that have cut people off from the benefits Congress intended them to receive. It is critical that any renters who are struggling to pay their rent during the pandemic are not barred from accessing this assistance due to cumbersome documentation requirements or other barriers. Specifically, the component of the eligibility requirements regarding a direct or indirect nexus to the pandemic should be interpreted to include any financial hardship incurred or exacerbated during the pandemic. Further, an applicant's simple written attestation should be the only documentation required to demonstrate a nexus to the pandemic.

And while Congress will extend the eviction moratorium by one month, I expect that the Biden Administration will extend it until the end of the pandemic to prevent millions of families from losing their homes. I look forward to a swift and effective implementation of this emergency rental assistance fund by the incoming Biden administration, including coordination with Congress on any key decisions.

PROMOTING AND ADVANCING COMMUNITIES OF COLOR THROUGH INCLUSIVE LENDING

This Congress, my Committee has prioritized the importance of diversity and inclusion, seeking ways to ensure the financial system is more inclusive and gives a fair chance for all consumers to own a home or start a small business. I established a Subcommittee on Diversity and Inclusion, and all of our other subcommittees have prioritized these critical issues across a range of financial policy areas. A good example of this is our work on minority depository institutions (MDIs) and community development financial institutions (CDFIs), which are financial institutions that play a critical role as lenders in low- and moderate-income (LMI) and communities of color. These institutions are on the front lines of meeting the financial needs of communities that are disproportionately underserved by traditional financial institution and are primary lenders to LMI and communities of color, including during the COVID-19 pandemic. CDFIs and MDIs assist minority entrepreneurs that are overlooked by traditional financial institutions.

Since the establishment of the Freedman's Savings and Trust Company in 1864, MDIs—

depository institutions where 51 percent or more of the stock is owned by one or more socially and economically disadvantaged individuals—have a long history in the United States of lending to communities of color. While regulators have a mandate to preserve and promote MDIs the number of MDI banks (143 as of September 30, 2021) and MDI credit unions (509 as of June 30, 2021) has declined by approximately one-third over the decade following the 2008 financial crisis. The Committee examined these developments during several hearings this Congress. On October 22, 2019, the Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Financial Institutions convened a hearing entitled, “An Examination of the Decline of Minority Depository Institutions and the Impact on Underserved Communities,” allowing the Committee to hear the perspectives of different kinds of MDIs and their experiences. On November 20, 2019, the Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Financial Institutions convened a hearing entitled, “An Examination of Regulators’ Efforts to Preserve and Promote Minority Depository Institutions,” allowing the Committee to hold prudential regulators accountable on their efforts to support MDIs.

Additionally, there are 1,163 CDFIs with a similar mission of delivering affordable lending options to the economically disadvantaged, especially those in LMI and minority communities. These banks, credit unions, and loan funds are certified by the CDFI Fund, which is operated out of the Treasury and provides grants and other financial and technical assistance to support CDFIs.

When the COVID-19 pandemic further disadvantaged these communities and minority-owned businesses, CDFIs and MDIs maintained their focus on helping businesses in their target areas minimize the economic impacts: Early during the pandemic, I was troubled to see many large banks ignoring the smallest of businesses to instead provide concierge services to their larger clients during the first round of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), a program that was intended to help truly small businesses that lacked resources stay afloat during these challenging times. I sent a letter to the Treasury and the Small Business Administration (SBA), along with Small Business Committee Chairwoman NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ, Speaker PELOSI and Senate Democratic Leaders, urging those agencies to immediately expand the PPP for greater participation by CDFIs and MDIs. CDFIs and MDIs were able to participate in PPP more fully in the second round, when Congress, as a result of my advocacy, set aside \$60 billion for them and other community financial institutions to deploy to America’s real small businesses, LMI and minority communities. SBA and Treasury subsequently eased restrictions on CDFI participation and set aside \$10 billion for exclusive lending by CDFIs and MDIs.

As this transpired, the Committee held several additional hearings earlier this year examining these trends and identifying solutions. Specifically, on June 3, 2020, the Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Financial Institutions convened a virtual hearing entitled, “Promoting Inclusive Lending During the Pandemic: Community Development Financial Institutions and Minority Depository Institutions,” allowing the Committee to examine how CDFIs and MDIs were responding to the pandemic and considering a range of legislative proposals. On July 9, 2020, the Sub-

committee on Diversity and Inclusion convened a virtual hearing entitled, “Access Denied: Challenges for Women- and Minority-Owned Businesses Accessing Capital and Financial Services During the Pandemic,” allowing the Committee to learn more about the hardships facing minority-owned businesses and women-owned businesses.

Because of my efforts and those of my colleagues, 432 CDFIs and MDIs were able to provide more than \$16.4 billion in PPP loans to over 221,000 small businesses. Unlike other financial institutions, CDFIs and MDIs reached the smallest of businesses as evidenced by a much smaller median PPP loan size of about \$74,000 compared to the overall program median loan size of \$101,000. In addition to establishing relief funds and services for local businesses and individuals experiencing loss of income, CDFIs and MDIs have also provided mortgage forbearances, loan deferments, and modifications to help address the needs of their borrowers.

Building on these experiences and the House Financial Services Committee’s extensive work on the importance of CDFIs and MDIs, I along with many of my Committee Democratic colleagues introduced H.R. 7993, the Promoting and Advancing Communities of Color Through Inclusive Lending Act in August 2020 to make long overdue reforms and improvements to support CDFIs and MDIs through capital investments, grants, deposits, and partnerships. The bill is cosponsored by Reps. GREGORY MEEKS, JOYCE BEATTY, LACY CLAY, EMANUEL CLEAVER, MADELINE DEAN, BILL FOSTER, CHUY GARCIA, SYLVIA GARCIA, VICENTE GONZALEZ, JOSH GOTTHEIMER, AL GREEN, AL LAWSON, STEPHEN LYNCH, DEAN PHILLIPS, AYANNA PRESSLEY, DAVID SCOTT, RASHIDA TLAIB, and JUAN VARGAS.

I am pleased several portions of my legislation were included in this stimulus bill, including \$12 billion for the CDFI Fund at the Treasury Department. The bill provides \$9 billion to fund and establish the Emergency Capital Investment Program (ECIP), which will provide low-cost, longterm capital to MDIs and depository CDFIs. The program includes a \$4 billion set aside for midsize institutions (those under \$2 billion in assets), of which \$2 billion will be set aside for smaller institutions (those under \$500 million in assets). In administering the ECIP, I fully expect Treasury to get these funds out quickly. Treasury should use the authority it has to set reasonable conditions on those receiving capital investments, including a prohibition on recipients charging interest rates that exceed the Military Lending Act’s 36 percent annual percentage rate (APR).

Additionally, the ECIP has a conflict of interest prohibition to ensure that senior government officials—the President of the United States, Vice President of the United States, Cabinet Secretaries, and Members of Congress—and their immediate family members do not benefit from this program. This provision is identical to the government official conflict of interest prohibition included in Section 4019 of the CARES Act for other pandemic emergency lending programs, and it should not be construed to apply a prohibition beyond those senior government officials and their family members.

I am pleased that this bill also provides an unprecedented \$3 billion for the CDFI Fund to award grants and other financial and technical assistance to CDFIs, including CDFI loan

funds. These funds will provide meaningful support for CDFIs in their continued service to consumers, small businesses and nonprofits that have been ravaged by the pandemic. At least \$1.2 billion (40 percent) of this appropriation is set aside for “minority lending institutions,” (MLIs) a new category of CDFIs that predominantly serve minority communities and are either MDIs or meet other standards for accountability to minority populations as determined by the CDFI Fund. To demonstrate service to minority communities, MLIs will need to provide a majority of both the number and dollar volume of arm’s length, on-balance sheet financial products to minorities or majority-minority census tracts or equivalents.

Given the historic importance and nature of these programs and funding, I encourage the CDFI Fund to use its administrative authorities to create an Office of Minority Lending Institutions, led by a Deputy Director of Minority Lending Institutions, to oversee the CDFI Fund’s work in providing grants and other forms of financial and technical assistance to these newly designated MLIs. This office should also collaborate with Treasury Department officials administering the ECIP to ensure eligible MLIs have every opportunity to access those capital investments as well. The Deputy Director should also conduct a study and report on the impact of CDFI programs in LMI and minority communities. The data should be disaggregated by racial and ethnic group and reveal results on lending in census tracts identified as minority communities. This new office should also hold certified CDFIs accountable for their outreach and communications in minority communities, which should reflect the linguistic and cultural sensitivities of those served. Additionally, this office should track and report the amount and number of CDFI Fund grants awarded to MLIs.

This legislation sets a new precedent where Congress should regularly set aside 40 percent of the CDFI Fund’s annual appropriations for awards and other assistance for minority lending institutions.

I look forward to working closely with the Treasury Department and the CDFI Fund as they implement these critical programs. I also look forward to working with my colleagues in Congress to ensure these landmark programs are just the first step in a series of long overdue reforms to promote inclusive lending.

FEDERAL RESERVE AND TREASURY EMERGENCY LENDING PROGRAMS

The Federal Reserve’s powers under section 13(3) of the Federal Reserve Act to establish emergency lending programs and facilities during “unusual and exigent circumstances” proved to be a valuable tool to address the economic and financial fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic. While the Federal Reserve established several programs and facilities on their own and with funds made available to the Treasury Secretary through the Exchange Stabilization Fund (ESF), Congress subsequently provided an additional \$500 billion to the ESF so that the Treasury could provide direct loans and support various Federal Reserve 13(3) programs and facilities. These programs were designed to stabilize financial markets and to provide access to credit for small businesses and non-profit organizations, as well as state and local governments.

Shortly after emergency lending programs like the Main Street Lending Program and the Municipal Liquidity Facility were stood up, it

became quickly evident there were a series of shortcomings with their design that would limit their effectiveness, leading me to write an extensive letter to Fed Chair Jay Powell on April 16, 2020, outlining my concerns and recommendations. This included expanding the Main Street Lending Program (MSLP) to ensure small businesses and non-profit organizations that needed help could access them. This also included expanding the Municipal Liquidity Facility (MLF) to make it more helpful to the many state and local governments that needed to help. I noted in that letter, and a subsequent one I sent with the House Financial Services Committee's Vice Chair, Rep. MICHAEL SAN NICOLAS (D-GU), that the Federal Reserve should ensure territories, like Guam, should have access to the Municipal Liquidity Facility, as Congress intended.

Since then and throughout the pandemic, I have had many discussions with Chair Powell as well as Treasury Secretary Mnuchin discussing my concerns with the Fed's facilities and the administration of other emergency programs, like the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). I also held three CARES Act oversight hearings where both testified this year before the House Financial Services Committee—on June 30, September 22, and December 2. I appreciate that along the way, some improvements were made. For example, with the MSLP, the Fed originally set the minimum loan threshold at \$1 million, which was lowered to \$500,000, and again to \$250,000, and finally to \$100,000, to ensure small businesses that needed smaller loans were not turned away. Access to the MLF was expanded to a wider range of state and local governments, and the facility's penalty rates were slightly reduced, though terms remained less favorable than those offered by the Fed's corporate credit facilities. Additionally, eligibility requirements for CDFI loan funds were eased so that more could participate and offer PPP loans. While overall, these programs were very helpful in stabilizing the economic volatility from the pandemic, I believe much more could and should have been done with these authorities and emergency facilities to limit the unnecessary short-term and long-term economic damage in many communities.

While the CARES Act made funds available to the Treasury until 2026 to support the Fed's emergency lending facilities throughout this pandemic and recovery, I was disappointed that Secretary Mnuchin opted to unilaterally close down these facilities at the end of 2020, even though the Fed wanted them to remain open, and these agencies clearly had the authority to keep them open. Non-partisan experts, Members of Congress, Congressional Oversight Commissioners, and the Special Inspector General of the Troubled Asset Relief Program have all strongly questioned the judgment and legal interpretation Secretary Mnuchin used to shut these facilities down. Minutes from the Federal Open Market Committee's November deliberations indicate that several Fed officials understand these facilities to be important in supporting the economy next year, and state and local officials, municipal bond market participants, and Financial Services Committee members from both parties have urged continuation of the MLF through 2021.

While I continue to hold the view that ending these facilities was premature and irresponsible, I am pleased that Congress has reached

a compromise through this legislation that will provide meaningful stimulus to the U.S. economy, while preserving the potent tools the Fed and Treasury have to engage in emergency lending that they had prior to the enactment of the CARES Act. Furthermore, this legislation will enable the Treasury Department under new leadership to support the economy through what remains a significant public health and economic crisis.

It is worth noting that in the negotiations, Members considered several proposals that would have severely restricted the Federal Reserve's emergency lending powers going forward that were rejected. One proposal was to include language that stipulated, "Notwithstanding any other provision of law, after December 31, 2020, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal Reserve banks shall not . . . establish under section 13(3) of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 343(3)) any program or facility that is similar to any program or facility established under section 13(3) of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 343(3)) in which the Secretary made a loan, loan guarantee, or other investment using funds appropriated under section 4027 (15 U.S.C. 9061). This proposal was rejected because it would have overridden emergency lending authorities the Federal Reserve had prior to the enactment of the CARES Act to stand up programs and facilities, with the support of funds made available to the Secretary of the Treasury through the ESF, to provide support to small businesses, mid-sized businesses, and non-profit organizations, as well as state and local governments, as was done in a similar fashion with CARES Act facilities. Other proposals to use "substantially similar" and other limiting phrases instead of "similar" were considered, and they were also rejected. Additionally, a proposal stipulating that "the Secretary shall not approve the establishment of any such program or facility" as those created by the CARES Act was also contemplated, but it was rejected on the basis that it would have placed undue constraints and limited these critical emergency lending authorities.

The final compromise agreed to by the Members that is contained in this legislation was significantly narrowed compared to these previously mentioned and other proposals. To be specific, this legislation provides hundreds of billions of dollars in stimulus while rescinding the unobligated amounts appropriated in the CARES Act for direct loans by the Treasury and emergency lending by the Federal Reserve. The bill sets December 31, 2020 as the date for termination of the Federal Reserve's authority to make new loans, asset purchases, or modifications through the existing CARES Act facilities. As these CARES Act funds that were deposited in the ESF are rescinded, the bill clarifies that ESF funds may not be used to establish Federal Reserve 13(3) facilities that are the "same as" (i.e. identical to) current 13(3) facilities that received CARES Act funding support (except the Term Asset-Backed Securities Loan Facility, or TALF), while permitting substantially similar Fed facilities to be stood up with ESF funds in the future. This legislation also clarifies that the Federal Reserve fully retains the authority it had prior to the enactment of the CARES Act to establish programs and facilities under section 13(3) of the Federal Reserve Act, and that the Secretary of the Treasury fully retains its au-

thority to use funds made available through the ESF to backstop such Fed facilities. This means that in unusual and exigent circumstances, the Federal Reserve can still work with the Treasury Department to establish new emergency lending programs and facilities to help small businesses and non-profit organizations, as well as state, territory, tribal, and local governments.

The pandemic is still raging, and our economy is still very vulnerable. State and local governments face enormous budget shortfalls next year, small businesses are struggling to stay open, and an increase in corporate downgrades and bankruptcies has been flagged as a major financial stability risk by regulators. Recognizing these serious problems, the Federal Reserve has indicated its preference to keep the "full suite of emergency facilities" available to it in the coming year. When the aforementioned proposals constraining emergency lending powers were reportedly being considered, former Fed Chair Ben Bernanke cautioned against them, stating "it is also vital that the Federal Reserve's ability to respond promptly to damaging disruptions in credit markets not be circumscribed." Thankfully, that language was rejected, and this legislation preserves the Fed and Treasury's authority to step in and address a crisis through emergency lending, just as we've seen them extend support to states, cities, and small businesses since the enactment of the CARES Act. I look forward to working with President-Elect Joe Biden, his incoming Administration and its new Treasury Secretary to ensure they work closely with the Fed and not be reluctant to fully utilize the tools and funds at its disposal to prevent job loss and stimulate economic recovery.

AIRPORT ASSISTANCE

As the Member of Congress who represents Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), I am deeply concerned about the tremendous financial needs that the COVID-19 pandemic has imposed upon our nation's air travel industry, especially the airports themselves. That is why I am pleased that this bill includes \$2 billion to assist our nation's airports and airport concessionaires.

Airports are an important engine for economic activity. They facilitate the movement of both merchandise and people around the nation and the world, but they have been severely affected by the pandemic. LAX was the fourth busiest airport in the world prior to the pandemic, based on the number of passengers. In 2018, 78.5 million passengers used LAX, including more than 26 million international passengers. According to a study in 2014, operations at LAX generated 620,000 jobs in Southern California with labor income of \$37.3 billion and economic output of more than \$126.6 billion. Furthermore, this economic activity added \$6.2 billion to local and state revenues. The unprecedented decline in air travel at LAX in response to the pandemic has had a profound negative impact upon the economy of Southern California.

In addition to being an essential hub for domestic and international travel, LAX is also the home of numerous concessionaires that serve the needs of airport passengers as they journey to their destinations. These concessionaires, many of which are small, disadvantaged, and minority- and women-owned businesses, depended upon the bustling economic activity that was commonplace at LAX prior to the pandemic.

While stopping the spread of the virus necessitates that Americans avoid all but the most essential air travel, we must nevertheless ensure that all of our nation's airports, large and small, are able to continue to operate in a safe manner, pay their workers, and prepare for the day when Americans will once again be able to travel freely without fear of COVID-19.

**PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM (PPP) AND OTHER AID
FOR SMALL BUSINESSES**

The Paycheck Protection Program was a lifeline for so many small businesses through the beginning of the pandemic. It provided largely forgivable loans to businesses that used the funds to keep their employees on payroll and to keep the lights on at work. I have worked hard alongside House Small Business Committee Chairwoman NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ from the beginning of the pandemic to ensure community financial institutions, like MDIs and CDFIs, could provide PPP loans, and to ensure that small businesses, particularly minority-owned businesses that have been disproportionately impacted by this pandemic, get the support they need. In the first round of PPP, more than \$525 billion of forgivable loans helped over 5.2 million businesses, with more than 81 percent of those loans being for less than \$100,000, and more than 68 percent of those loans being for less than \$50,000, this program.

Building on those efforts, I am pleased that today's bill reauthorizes and provides over \$284 billion to this program. Specifically, the legislation provides for first draw and second draw forgivable PPP loans, expanded eligibility for nonprofits and local newspapers, TV and radio broadcasters, and key modifications to PPP to serve the smallest businesses and struggling non-profits. I am also pleased the legislation will help independent restaurants, and includes \$15 billion in dedicated funding for live venues, independent movie theaters, and cultural institutions.

Additionally, the bill expands the expenses to which PPP funds can be applied to include life- and enterprise-saving protective equipment for staff and businesses. And the bill speeds up forgiveness for the smallest of the

PPP loans, reducing the paperwork required of a recipient while affirming the need to prevent fraud and other financial crimes that would prevent legitimate businesses from accessing the funds. Moreover, \$15 billion of these funds have been reserved to be issued by community financial institutions, including CDFIs and MDIs, and another \$15 billion is reserved for community banks and credit unions with less than \$10 billion in total assets.

In addition to these PPP loans, this legislation includes \$20 billion for targeted Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) Grants which have proven to be helpful to many smaller businesses. While I believe this legislation will be helpful for many small businesses, Congress should be prepared to quickly pass additional legislation and provide additional relief to help small businesses. Furthermore, the Federal Reserve along with the Treasury Department should be prepared to exercise the emergency lending powers they have to augment these efforts and do what they can to help small businesses struggling through this pandemic through no fault of their own.

STIMULUS CHECKS

When the scope of the recession caused by Covid-19 became clear in March, I introduced legislation that would have provided our economy with "automatic stabilizers" in the form of monthly stimulus payments to a broad set of eligible households. In any recession, direct payments can help mitigate the drain on demand caused by people losing their jobs and income, and within the context of a recession deepened by stay-at-home measures, direct payments are an essential part of the government's response. Research on the impact of the CARES Act estimates that the one-time economic impact payment that CARES provided reduced poverty for 8.2 million individuals. Importantly, the same research shows that the poverty-reducing effect of the CARES Act is about to run out for that same set of individuals, and with unemployment claims back on the rise, emergency relief through direct stimulus had to be a part of this end-of-year package. I will continue to push for more relief next year, and I know that much more direct stimulus will be needed to get households

through what remains of this pandemic and the economic fallout it has caused.

Mr. Speaker, I have been truly inspired by the resolve and strength of the American public as the enormity of this pandemic has grown. Medical workers, first responders, grocers, teachers, and countless others have worked every day to benefit our struggling communities during this crisis. With this legislation before us today, Congress is finally doing its part to stand up for people and families across the country. Colleagues, please join me and vote yes for H.R. 133.

**GRATITUDE FOR CAPITOL HILL
STAFFERS**

HON. KWANZA HALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 24, 2020

Mr. HALL. I rise today to express a bit of gratitude. I have been a member of this chamber for a while now and while there are several committees and members of this body that keep its functioning ongoing, I would also like to recognize another indispensable group.

I want to thank the cafeteria workers, janitors, members of the Capitol Police, Sergeant at Arms, Clerk's Office, Attending Physician, Congressional, House and other support staff throughout the Longworth, Rayburn and Cannon House office buildings.

They have been so welcoming and helpful during my time in this critical moment in our country during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Their service has been laudable. Their sacrifice has been commendable. And, when I leave here, I will remember their smiles and their generosity in spirit as they help the Representatives serve those who sent us here.

I know that I will never miss an opportunity to tell all in Georgia's Fifth Congressional District of all the wonderful people who make this Capitol Complex function for the people of our Nation,

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

The Senate met at 10:00:29 a.m. in pro forma session, and adjourned at 10:01 a.m., until 10 a.m., on Monday, December 28, 2020.

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 5 public bills, H.R. 9046–9050; and 1 resolution, H. Res. 1272 were introduced. **Page H9152**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H9152**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 3742, to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to make supplemental funds available for management of fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need as determined by State fish and wildlife agencies, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–685, Part 1);

H.R. 5187, to facilitate the development of affordable housing, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–686);

H.R. 5534, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for extended months of Medicare coverage of immunosuppressive drugs for kidney transplant patients, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–687, Part 1);

H.R. 2113, to amend titles XI and XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for drug manufacturer price transparency, to require certain manufacturers to report on product samples provided to certain health care providers, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–688, Part 1);

H.R. 3225, to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to make certain adjustments in leasing on Federal lands for oil and gas drilling, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–689, Part 1);

H.R. 3414, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the distribution of additional residency positions to help combat the opioid crisis, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–690, Part 1);

H.R. 3417, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for patient improvements and rural and quality improvements under the Medicare program, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–691, Part 1);

H.R. 7539, to strengthen parity in mental health and substance use disorder benefits, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–692, Part 1);

H.R. 2375, to prohibit prescription drug companies from compensating other prescription drug companies to delay the entry of a generic drug, biosimilar biological product, or interchangeable biological product into the market (H. Rept. 116–693, Part 1);

H.R. 2374, to enable the Federal Trade Commission to deter filing of sham citizen petitions to cover an attempt to interfere with approval of a competing generic drug or biosimilar, to foster competition and facilitate the efficient review of petitions filed in good faith to raise legitimate public health concerns, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–694);

H.R. 5133, to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to prohibit anticompetitive behaviors by drug product manufacturers, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–695);

H.R. 3439, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and title XI of the Social Security Act to extend appropriations and transfers to the Patient-

Centered Outcomes Research Trust Fund and to extend certain health insurance fees for such transfers, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–696, Part 1); and

H.R. 5201, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage under the Medicare program of certain mental health telehealth services, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–697, Part 1). **Page H9151**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Dingell to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H9149**

Presidential Veto Message—National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021: Read a message from the President wherein he transmitted his Memorandum of Disapproval of H.R. 6395, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and explained his reasons therefore—ordered printed (H. Doc. 116–174). **Page H9150**

Without objection, the House postponed further consideration of the veto message and the joint resolution until the legislative day of December 28, 2020. **Page H9150**

Senate Referral: S. 2429 was held at the desk. **Page H9149**

Senate Messages: Messages received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appear on page H9149.

Quorum Calls—Votes: There were no yea-and-nay votes, and there were no recorded votes. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 9:12 a.m.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2020

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Monday, December 28

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 p.m., Monday, December 28

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will meet in pro forma session.

House Chamber

Program for Monday: To be announced.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Case, Ed, Hawaii, E1199
Eshoo, Anna G., Calif., E1200
Hall, Kwanza, Ga., E1199, E1200, E1200, E1205
Levin, Andy, Mich., E1199
Marchant, Kenny, Tex., E1202
Stevens, Haley M., Mich., E1199
Waters, Maxine, Calif., E1202
Wittman, Robert J., Va., E1201
Yoho, Ted S., Fla., E1201



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